

JOHN Y. WILLIAMS.

FEBRUARY 2, 1895.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. TURPIN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 6925.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred House bill 6925, report:

Your committee referred the same to the Indian Office for additional information; this information will be found in the following letter from Hon. D. M. Browning, Commissioner, to wit:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 15, 1895.

GENTLEMEN: Bill H. R. 6925, "To authorize adjustment and settlement of accounts of John Y. Williams in equity," having been referred to this office for a report thereon, the following statement is made:

Superintendent John Y. Williams took the Fort Hall School September 9, 1889, and continued in charge until August 4, 1893. He found the school in very bad condition, the building very much dilapidated and necessitating considerable outlay to do any satisfactory work. Williams went into the work earnestly and put things into satisfactory shape, not always with regard to the regulations of the Indian Department. During his administration they had a very severe visitation of scarlet fever, and the school was isolated. Mr. Williams lost his son by the disease, and his own condition became such that he did things carelessly and without due regard to the law and Department regulations. The result was a large amount of suspensions against his accounts, which he tried by several months' labor to remove by substitution of new vouchers to take the place of those suspended. Williams impressed many of those dealing with him in this office with having made an earnest but badly managed effort to build up the Fort Hall School, which school was reported by special agents, who were sent there to investigate, to be in first-rate condition about the time he left. It is not believed that the United States suffered by any carefully planned dishonesty on his part, but from his irregular method of doing business. It is believed that the school represents a fairly economical expenditure of the means used by him to improve and build it up.

I can see no reason why this bill to settle his accounts on "principles of equity and justice" should not pass.

The bill referred to is respectfully returned herewith.

Respectfully,

D. M. BROWNING, *Commissioner.*

THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,
House of Representatives.

The committee recommend that the bill do pass.